Remarks

Claim 23 has been canceled, and claims 11, 13, 17, 18, and 20 have been amended. The allowance of claims 15 and 16, and the allowability of claims 13, 14, 17, 20, and 21 are noted with appreciation. Re-examination and reconsideration of the application, in view of the amendments above and the remarks below, are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 11, 17, and 23 for certain informalities, which have been corrected.

The Examiner rejected claims 11, 18, 19, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Robert U.S. Patent No. 6,543,103. Claim 23 has been canceled. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, as to claims 11, 18, and 19, is respectfully requested.

In claim 11, Applicants are claiming a method for memorializing a deceased who is to be buried in a casket. The steps of the method comprise displaying a casket containing a deceased therein, the casket having at least one selectively removable personalized casket corner piece, removing the personalized casket corner piece from the casket prior to inserting the casket into the grave site, affixing the personalized casket corner piece to a casket corner piece display, and presenting the casket corner piece display having the personalized casket corner piece to survivors of the deceased so that the deceased can be remembered by displaying the personalized casket corner piece.



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The Examiner rejected claim 11 as being obvious over Robert, in particular column 2, lines 5-13. The Examiner stated that, there, "Robert discloses a casket having a casket corner piece for attachment thereto and a casket corner piece display for affixing the casket corner piece thereto upon removal of the casket corner piece from the casket." In response, Applicants submit that they are not claiming a combination of a casket, a corner piece, and a corner piece display. Rather, Applicants are claiming a specific method for memorializing a deceased. That method includes steps which are nowhere taught by or suggested in Robert; to-wit, displaying the casket containing the deceased therein, the casket having at least one selectably removable personalized casket corner piece, removing the personalized casket corner piece from the casket prior to inserting the casket into a grave, affixing the personalized casket corner piece to a casket corner piece display, and presenting the casket corner piece display having the personalized casket corner piece to survivors of the deceased so that the deceased can be remembered by displaying the personalized casket corner piece. Robert, at column 2, lines 5-13, simply does not teach or suggest Applicants' method of memorialization, and therefore it is submitted that claim 11 is allowable thereover.

In claim 18, Applicants are claiming a method for merchandising selectively removable casket corner pieces. The method comprises the steps of providing a plurality of casket corner piece displays, providing a plurality of different casket corner pieces, affixing a different casket corner piece to each of the casket corner piece displays, and



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displaying the casket corner piece displays in close proximity to one another such that the casket corner pieces can all be readily visually compared to each other as mounted on the displays. The Examiner stated that Robert, at column 3, lines 5-15, "discloses a plurality of casket corner piece displays (5) each having an identical or different casket corner piece thereby inherently enabling visual comparison of the casket corner pieces." In response, Applicants submit that Robert, at column 3, lines 5-15, does not teach Applicants' method for merchandising selectively removable casket corner pieces, as claimed. Rather, Robert merely discloses the fact that his casket may include four corner ornaments wherein each of the corner ornaments is identical, or alternatively, at least two of the four corner ornaments may be identical. Robert simply does not teach Applicants' method for merchandising selectively removable casket corner pieces, the steps comprising providing a plurality of casket corner piece displays, providing a plurality of different casket corner pieces, affixing a different corner piece to each display and displaying the corner piece displays in close proximity to one another for visual comparison purposes. It is submitted that claim 18 is clearly allowable thereover.

Claim 19 depends from claim 18, and it is submitted that claim 19 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 18, as well as others.

The Examiner rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Robert in view of Mertins U.S. Patent No. 6,021,525. Claim 12 depends from claim 11 and is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 11, as well



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as others. The deficiencies of Robert have been discussed above. Mertins supplies none of the deficiencies thereof. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 12 is also allowable.

Lastly, the Examiner stated that claims 13, 14, 17, 20, and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants have so rewritten claims 13, 17, and 20, and it is submitted that claims 13, 14, 17, 20, and 21 are now in a condition for allowance.

In view of the above, it is submitted that all of the claims remaining in the application, namely claims 11-21, are allowable. Re-examination of the application is respectfully requested, and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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